

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN TRAINING SCHOOL.

THE Oxford Diocesan Training School, founded at the end of October last, at Culham, as we mentioned at the time, is in style Late Decorated, and in plan is quadrangular. The range forming the south front is bounded at one end by the chapel, which stands out from the chief line of the building, and is connected with it by a corridor and cloisters. The interior of the chapel is to be arranged stall-wise, the seats fronting north and south. The principal front on either side of the central entrance consists of a great dining-hall and schoolroom, each 58 feet by 20 in dimensions. The dining-hall will be fitted up with large fire-places, and the apartment lined with oak. The eastern wing of the building is to consist of three large class-rooms and the master's sitting-rooms: the western wing is to be appropriated to the principal offices of the establishment. The second floor will consist of dormitories for 100 pupils, the space devoted to this purpose extending throughout three sides of the entire building, and a separate dormitory being provided for each individual, with a window. The staircases are to be of stone, and the floors formed with Mearns, Fox and Barrett's patent. The walls are constructed of Marcham stone, hacked up with brickwork. The windows of the south front will be trefoil-headed, in accordance with the general character of the design. Over the principal entrance the arms of the See of Oxford will be placed, as expressive of the character and destined purposes of the building.

The centre of the building is to be laid out as a large open square, with an ambulatory on three of its sides. It is designed to occupy the fourth side of this square with the Practising Schools, and a Yeoman's School.

A terrace, 36 feet in width, will extend along the entire south front of the building, and will be reached by a carriage-way from the Abingdon-road.

The building is adapted for the accommodation of 100 students, and four or five assistant masters, besides the principal, for whom, as indicated in the above sketch of the arrangements, a separate residence will be provided in the interior. The estimated cost of the work is 16,000*l.*, of which the larger portion has been raised by diocesan subscriptions, assisted by the Committee of Council on Education and the National Society.

The architect of the building is Mr. Joseph Clarke, of London; and the contractor, Mr. George Myers.

THE RECORDS OF THE GREAT EXHIBITION.

Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations, 1851. Official Descriptive and Illustrated Catalogue. By authority of the Royal Commission. In three volumes. London: Spicer, Brothers, Wholesale Stationers: W. Clowes and Sons, Printers, 1851.

It is almost a pity this unprecedented work has been called a catalogue: indeed, it is a sort of anachronism to term it so; considering that the Commissioners are only placing it before the world with one hand, while closing the Exhibition gates with the other. A perpetual memento—a standard "official record"—it is, however, of the noblest effort—the highest reach—the grandest display of human progress ever made. And this it is, not merely as a matter-of-fact enumeration of the world-wide wealth of which it contains the inventory; but as a work of reference and instruction, taste and invention, the fruit of thousands of brains—nay, the composition of thousands of pens; for this is a cosmopolitan production, which the commission and its editors, annotators, and compilers have only aided in ushering into the world in orderly unity and condensation. The labours of these latter, however, have contributed immensely to its value; and the importance of the whole compendium could not be otherwise than vastly enhanced by a list of labourers on it such as the following:—

"ANNOTATORS OF THE CATALOGUE."

"Professor Owen, F.R.S.; Baron Justus Liebig, F.R.S.; Professor Lindley, F.R.S.; Professor Forbes Royle, F.R.S.; Professor Bell, F.R.S.; Sec. R.S.; Professor E. Forbes, F.R.S.; Professor Ansted, F.R.S.; Professor Hooking; Professor A. De Morgan, M.A.; Philip Pusey, M.P., F.R.S.; Rev. J. Barlow, F.R.S.; Rev. J. Booth, F.R.S.; Capt. L. L. Boscawen Ibbetson, F.R.S.; James Glaisher, F.R.S.; J. E. Gray, F.R.S.; Robert Hunt, Keeper of Mining Records; Robert Ellis, F.L.S.; Samuel Clegg, Jun., F.G.S.; W. De la Rue, F.R.S.; J. Spurgin, M.D.; John Wilson, F.R.S.E.; Henry Dildin; W. C. Aitken; H. Mauley, C.E.; Robert Hendrie, Jun.; J. A. Nicholay.

Official revision and sanction for publication by Lieut.-Col. J. A. Lloyd, F.R.S. Scientific revision and preparation by Robert Ellis, F.L.S. Historical introduction by Henry Cole. Construction of the building by M. Digby Wyatt, C.E., F.R.I.B.A. Classification of subjects in the thirty classes into which the Exhibition is divided, by Dr. Lyon Playfair, F.R.S. Compilation and preparation of the Abridged Catalogue by G. W. Yapp.

Technical information and assistance have also been rendered by Mr. G. Taylor, Mr. T. Battam, Professor Wallace, M.A., Mr. C. Tomlinson, Mr. John Graham, Mr. E. H. Denison, and other gentlemen. Much valuable information and assistance have also been kindly furnished by the Royal Commissioners for several of the Foreign States exhibiting. Their contributions have been inserted partly in the form of notes, and occasionally in that of a short introduction."

In a modest essay on the "Scientific Revision and Preparation of the Catalogue," Mr. Ellis gives an account of the circumstances under which the work was published. Amongst these circumstances not the least remarkable is the fact that the greater portion of it was actually in type before the opening of the Exhibition on the 1st of May. The Catalogue then published was but an abstract of this work as it then stood, without the bulk of those labours which have been ever since in course of expenditure on its collaboration. Into these circumstances and labours, however, we cannot enter further yet.

To one peculiar feature of the work attention ought to be specially directed. This is the fact that it embodies, to a large extent, the *Science of Commerce*. In this first edition we have already a comprehensive and so far successful endeavour to convert the changing and inaccurate conventional terms of trade into the precise and enduring expressions of science. As an instance, we may mention the words employed for furniture, which are enumerated, with their commercial names, their Latin names, their native habits, and the uses to which they are applicable. Mr. Ellis, in the essay just referred to, while remarking on this peculiar feature of the record, says:—

"In the present edition of this work, prepared as it has necessarily been under highly unfavourable circumstances as to accuracy and correction, this attempt may not be as successful as in future editions: but such arrangements are made, in order to obtain this important and valuable result, as will render future editions of this Catalogue permanently valuable in this respect, not only to the naturalist but also to commercial men. That this feature of the Catalogue will not be without its fruit in the promotion of the objects of industry, may be expected from the knowledge of the fact, that hitherto, in consequence of the absence of such information in a collected form, the greatest difficulties have been experienced by commercial men in their endeavours to introduce into trade any new material of industrial importance, or to obtain adequate supplies of materials already known, but known under a variety of changing, local, and unintelligible terms. In the seventeenth century, Robert Boyle perceived the important results likely to arise from the 'naturalist's insight into trades.' It may be hoped that such results will not fail of their accomplishment."

As to accuracy and correction, these are but relative terms: so long as human nature has not reached the pinnacle of perfection, absolute accuracy and immaculate correctness in such a work never will be reached. Moreover, the most likely of all to reach the farthest towards so unattainable a point are precisely those who will be most diffident of their own abilities and success. The present edition of this great design is in itself a great work, whatever

shortcomings it may display to the eye of minute criticism. We, for our own part, would have certainly desired to have seen every illustration of such a work worthy of the work itself; but we suspect that imperfection in this respect, at least, was necessarily and unavoidably involved in the very rules and arrangements the strict observance of which alone rendered its existence possible at all. The illustrations, no less than the Catalogue, may be said to be the work of the exhibitors themselves, though subject, like it, to the decision of the executive commission and the other authorities engaged in the preparation of the whole: this will more clearly appear from the following regulation:—

"Her Majesty's Commissioners have consented to allow illustrations of articles exhibited to be inserted in the large Catalogue, after approval by the Executive Committee. Exhibitors desirous to avail themselves of this privilege must communicate their intention of providing the illustrations, and state their character, whether engraving on wood, on steel, or lithography."

More than one-third of the first volume is devoted to various preliminary subjects, though followed up by nearly 500 pages of the Catalogue and its annotations, some of the latter of which are complete essays in themselves. Following on the Preface and General Contents, an immense List of Illustrations, and other matters, is an Alphabetical and Classified List of the Articles described in the Catalogue, which must prove of important service in consulting the great body of the work. Then follows an index of the names of exhibitors and others; and next the Introduction, in which Mr. Henry Cole enters at large into the history of the great idea of the International Exhibition. The next essay is one on the Construction of the Building by Mr. M. Digby Wyatt, with illustrations. There is also a classification of subjects in the thirty classes into which the Exhibition is divided, and a directorial list of commissioners, jurors, &c.

Besides the briefer annotations in the body of the work, as already remarked, there are entire and valuable essays, as on iron, on mineral fuel, mining and mineral products, and various other subjects, including formal introductions to different sections and nations, and a vast mass of other matter, the whole constituting a body of *Commercial Science*, such as must prove to be not only invaluable, but henceforth indispensable to men of all branches of trade, art, science, and industrial pursuits in general, throughout the whole world, and vastly promotive of all the ends and objects of industry in art and science themselves. Translations of the work into every language in which commerce is more or less extensively carried on, we should think, must eventually be demanded and supplied, and, spite of the extent and cost of such a work, we should not wonder to find it sold in thousands of copies abroad as well as at home.

THE POTTERIES SCHOOL OF DESIGN.

The fourth annual meeting of this school was held at Stoke-upon-Trent on Monday in week before last, Mr. J. A. Wise in the chair. The master's report stated that the school made good progress. The number of students on the books for the present month of November was as follows:—At the Stoke school, 69 male students, and 42 female; total, 111. At the Hanley school, males, 75,—females, 23; total, 98; making the entire number of students in the two schools, 209. It was thought there was every prospect of the schools attaining an increased development. The number of pupils was on the increase, and Government had liberally appointed an assistant master to each school. The report of the council of management, however, complained of the state of the finances, the institution being 100*l.* in debt. An appeal was made to the public of the district for increased support. The chairman in his address recommended to young artists the perusal of Mr. Wornum's late essay on "The Great Exhibition as a lesson of taste." The meeting was afterwards addressed by Mr. Child, M.P.; Mr. Ridgway, and other gentlemen.